

Check against delivery



PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Rue de Vermont 37-39, CH - 1202 Geneva  
Tel.: +41/22/716 1780, Fax: +41/22/738 6665

**Universal Periodic Review of Guatemala**

Madam President,

Slovenia warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Guatemala and thanks for the presentation of the national report and additional explanations.

We would like to commend the Government of Guatemala for the progress made in the field of human rights since the first UPR review in 2008, especially ratifications of CRPD, OP-CRPD, OP-CAT and the Rome Statute of the ICC. Further we would like to express our appreciation for the excellent treaty-bodies reporting status of the country.

Despite strengthened efforts of the Government there are still concerns that indigenous people remain de facto excluded from access to social, political and cultural spheres. Disparities in social indicators between indigenous and non-indigenous populations persist.

Concerning the multicultural nature of the country we would like to *ask* what further steps the Government will take to guarantee a system of legal interpreters and bilingual counsel and court officials in all parts of the country.

My delegation would like to put forward the following 3 **recommendations**:

- First, to take steps to ensure access to safe drinking water for all the indigenous communities;
- Second, to prepare and implement a specific birth registration strategy for indigenous peoples; and
- Third, to guarantee effective consultations with communities that might be affected by development projects and exploitation of natural resources.

Thank you.